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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,459	06/15/2001	Peter G. S. Dove	901033-1013	2724
22145	7590	01/10/2005	EXAMINER	
KLEIN, O'NEILL & SINGH 2 PARK PLAZA SUITE 510 IRVINE, CA 92614			WRIGHT, ANDREW D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,459

Applicant(s)

DOVE ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Wright

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-97 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 72-76 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62, 65-71 and 77-97 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 63 and 64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/3/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-71 and 77-97 in the reply filed on 10/21/02 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 72-76 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/21/02.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 57 is objected to. Claim 57 recites the limitation "the apparatus to be moored" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is assumed that the recitation should be "the vessel to be moored". Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 67 is objected to. Claim 67 recites the limitation "the apparatus to be moored" in line 17. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is assumed that the recitation should be "the vessel to be moored". Appropriate correction is required.
5. Claim 86 is objected to. Claim 86 recites the limitation "the vessel" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. A positive recitation should be used. Claim 86 also recites "the vessel to be moored" in line 9. If this is the same vessel as above, then consistent terminology should be used. If it is a different

vessel, then a positive recitation should be used. for examination it will be assumed that it refers to the already recited vessel. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 63 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. Claims 63 and 64 are identified as method claims in the claim preamble, and recite method steps in the claim body. The claims depend from claim 57, which is an apparatus claim. It is unclear whether claims 63 and 64 are apparatus or method claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. Claims 63 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 63 and 64 are identified as method claims in the claim preamble, and recite method steps in the claim body. The

claims depend from claim 57, which is an apparatus claim. The statutory language indicates that a claim may be drawn to a method or an apparatus, but not both.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 1-62, 65-71, and 77-97 are allowed.
12. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed method or apparatus, specifically including using the anchor handling vessel to apply tension and using a clamping apparatus to maintain the tension.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pease (US 3,889,621) shows a typical anchor handling vessel. Guinn et al. (US 4,067,282) shows an anchor handling vessel that attaches a pendant to a preset mooring line. Bruce (US 5,097,787) shows an anchor tensioner. Bergeron (US 6,457,908) shows an anchor handling vessel that attaches a pendant to a preset mooring line, and further discloses that a winch on the moored vessel then tensions the pendant and line.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Andrew D. Wright at telephone number (703) 308-6841. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano, can be reached at (703) 308-0230. The fax number for official communications is 703-872-9306. The fax number directly to the examiner for unofficial communications is 703-746-3548.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrew D. Wright
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3617

Am 12/28/04
ANDREW D. WRIGHT
PRIMARY EXAMINER